



**THESIS
STATEMENTS**

THESIS STATEMENTS

- In an expository paper, you are explaining something to your audience.
- An expository thesis/ forecasting statement will tell your audience:
 - what you are going to explain to them
 - the categories you are using to organize your explanation
 - the order in which you will be presenting your categories

APPOSITIVE THESIS STATEMENTS

- A common defining strategy is the appositive phrase.
 - One word or phrase defines another word or phrase in a brief inserted phrase called an appositive.
- Look at the thesis statement from the Cannibalism essay on page 138.
 - Cannibalism, the act of human beings eating human flesh (Sagan 2), has a long history and continues to hold interest and create controversy.
 - Note how the writer gives credit to the original author for the appositive definition.

DEFINITION THESIS STATEMENTS

- If you wish to cite a definition entry, give the relevant designation (e.g., number, letter) after the abbreviation def. (see the “Noon” example below).
 - Milton’s description of the moon at “her highest noon” signifies the “place of the moon at midnight” (“Noon” def. 1).
- Another example
 - International adoption, an “adoption taking place when an individual or couple seeks to become the legal parents of a child born in another country” (“International adoption” def. 2), is a debated issue in the United States.

WORKS CITED PAGE

- **Print Dictionary Citations**

- The 7th edition of the Modern Language Association Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, published in book form in 2009, requires that you initially flag the word you sought to define in your paper, as well the other customary citation information, except for the publisher. If there are multiple definitions for the word, be sure to point out which one you relied on. Such a citation would look like this:

- “Acquiescence.” Def. 1. *Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary*. 10th ed. 2000.

- The name of the dictionary should be set in italics.

- **Online Dictionary Citations**

- The logic guiding online citations is that the date the information was created is less important than the date you accessed it, largely because it is expected that information on the Web is fluid and can change more easily than printed information. So you place “n.d.” immediately after the name of the online source to indicate that you are not including the date the information was published. A citation for an online dictionary entry would look like this:

- “Perchloric acid.” Def. 2. *The American Heritage Stedman’s Medical Dictionary*, Houghton Mifflin, 1995. *Dictionary.com*, [www.dictionary.com/ browse/perchloric-acid?s=t](http://www.dictionary.com/browse/perchloric-acid?s=t). Accessed 13 Dec. 2010.

- The name of the dictionary should be placed in italics.